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## Nurse gave herself insulin after learning of husband's affair



Julia Knight, pictured outside Oxford Crown Court, who is accused of attempted murder

# ACCUSED IN SUICIDE BID

A NURSE, who is accused of poisoning her elderly mother with a lethal dose of insulin, had tried to kill herself using the same method after her marriage fell apart, a court heard.

Julia Knight admits injecting Irene Robson with a potentially fatal dose of the drug, which is used mainly to treat type one diabetes, while she was recovering at the Horton General Hospital, Banbury, after a fall.

But she denies attempting to murder the 81-year-old – who was not a diabetic – or cause her grievous bodily harm.

The jury, which was made up of seven men and five women, was told that Julia Knight had tried to commit suicide in 2006 after discovering that her husband was having a third affair.

The 56-year-old told the court on Monday that she found the breakdown in her marriage hard to cope with and took the insulin from her work at the West Bar Doctor's Practice in Banbury.

In a statement read to Oxford Crown Court, the mother-of-one added: "I got to the point where I

By Joe Gammie  
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just couldn't carry on.

"I got about 30 paracetamols and washed them down with some gin. "I then injected myself with the 0.5ml of short-acting insulin."

The court heard how her 18-year-old daughter arrived back from university and raised the alarm.

Knight said she had originally felt too ashamed to tell police but had come forward after speaking to colleagues.

John Price, prosecuting, told the jury that on Tuesday, October 7, last year, Knight, of Sycamore Drive, Banbury, had forged a prescription for insulin from her workplace using a colleague's computer.

Mr Price said she then went to her mother's bedside at the Laburnum Ward in the Banbury hospital and injected her with it using a self-administering pen.

He stressed the attempted murder was not motivated by financial gain and was not a mercy killing because Ms Robson


had never mentioned a wish to end her life.

Knight told police that when she arrived at Ms Robson's bedside that day, her mother had not looked well but that was not unusual.

She left at the same time that Ms Robson's partner of 33 years Trevor Charles arrived, and shortly afterwards he raised the alarm.

Doctors rushed to her bedside and gave Ms Robson a high dose of glucose to raise her blood sugar, which was described as the lowest one doctor had ever seen.

The trial continues.



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## Detectives end rape inquiry

**DEDDINGTON:** An inquiry into reports of a woman being raped in a Deddington churchyard has been closed, Thames Valley Police said.

Following allegations made last June, the force ruled that no offence was committed.

Police were called to St Peter and St Paul Church in Church Street early on June 21 where they found a 25-year-old woman.

The incident was hours after the 11pm end of Deddington Music Festival in the market square.

Police appealed for witnesses to a man seen with the alleged victim near the church shortly before police were called.

They did not say if the man was known to the woman but they mounted extra patrols in the village to reassure people.

Banbury CID said at the time that police were examining CCTV to help identify the man.

Police spokesman Gareth Ford-Lloyd said: "There has been a thorough investigation and police have concluded that no offence took place and the case is now closed."

Police said that no action would be taken against the alleged victim, but declined to say why.

## Church concert

**N OXON:** A fundraising concert in aid of a King's Sutton church will be held on Saturday.

The 198 foot high spire of King's Sutton Parish Church needs urgent repair at an estimated cost of £90,000.

Performing will be international pianist Viv Mclean joined by the Adderbury Ensemble choir.

The concert will start at 7.45pm in Church Avenue. Tickets are £13 or £15 on the door.



Offering up some fruit at Harvest Banbury, which was staged at The Hill Youth and Community Centre

## Apple do nicely! Half a tonne of fruit donated to harvest festival

**MORE** than half a tonne of fresh fruit was donated to those in need in Banbury last week.

Harvest Banbury held a juicing evening for people to give away unwanted fruit and learn about the benefits of healthy eating, as part of a harvest festival-style project.

The project was funded by social housing provider Sanctuary Housing and led by the Banbury Community Action Group.

Visitors to The Hill Youth and Community Centre were shown how some of the harvest was transformed into healthy and colourful drinks to take home.

Donations of fruit came from the local community, Sanctuary Housing staff and Banbury Town councillor John Donaldson.

The OYAP Trust's youth action team, based at the centre, helped screen print tote bags for people to take away their fresh produce.

Sanctuary's neighbourhood partnerships manager Kate Winstanley said: "It was a great pleasure to be involved with this project and to support health and wellbeing in our community."

"The event was such a simple yet effective way of sharing fresh food and preventing waste and the youth action team added their own sparkle to the event."

The project was funded by Sanctuary Group's Cherish Cherwell Fund, which support projects benefitting social housing residents and their communities.

Banbury Community Action Group's chairman Jake Ellement said: "Harvest Banbury has begun as a single event but we hope to build on its success and find new ways to share food and prevent waste."

"Even the leftovers from the juicing will be put to good use by some local pigs."

# 999 volunteers plea by aneurysm victim

Community responder helps ambulance crew save life of neighbour taken ill at home

**Pete Hughes**  
phughes@nqo.com

A MAN whose life was saved by one of his oldest friends has called for more people to train as ambulance service volunteers.

Nick Mallinson almost died from a brain aneurysm but was saved by his neighbour Alan Brewer, a community first responder.

He was at home in Steeple Aston one day when he was struck by a sudden agonising headache after a blood vessel ruptured in his brain.

His family called 999 and the first person on the scene was Mr Brewer.

Mr Mallinson said: "Alan is one of my neighbours. He's basically known me since I was a baby."

"As he only lives halfway down our road he got to me very quickly."

"He made a calm assessment of the situation and a few minutes after he arrived, so did the ambulance."

Mr Brewer had a quick conversation with paramedics and they decided to take Mr Mallinson to the John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford.

South Central Ambulance Service said Mr Brewer's quick thinking helped save his life.

Mr Mallinson said: "I can't remember anything that happened after being put in the ambulance, but I hear from witnesses that if these

guys hadn't done everything the way they did, then basically I wouldn't be here now. "I thank Alan and the ambulance crew from the bottom of my heart."

But now South Central Ambulance Service has said it is desperately short of first responders in some of Oxfordshire's most rural areas.

There are currently 130 CFRs in Oxfordshire but there are none at the moment in Chipping Norton, Charlbury or Wallingford.

Volunteer responders are called to life-threatening incidents such as cardiac arrests or strokes and often help save the lives of people in their towns and villages.

The ambulance service's community liaison and training officer for Oxfordshire, David England, said: "Community first responders are extremely important,

especially for the more rural areas of Oxfordshire where it can take ambulances longer to reach patients with life-threatening emergencies."

"Because each responder lives or works in their own patch, they often reach a patient minutes earlier than an emergency ambulance."

The appeal comes after latest figures revealed the ambulance service failed to meet emergency response time targets in June, July and August.

Mr Brewer said: "Living in a place I have loved for the past 44 years, why not assist others in need of help?"

"First responders do make a difference as you are the patient's first contact before the ambulance arrives. You arriving within minutes is reassuring for them and their family, friends or work colleagues."



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# Paddle power for river canoe marathon

MORE than 250 paddlers took to the water for Banbury's annual canoe marathon race on Sunday.

Participants raced between two and 12 miles on the Oxford Canal, with entries ranging from under 10s up to international competitors. It was organised by Banbury and District Canoe Club, based in Cropredy.

Solihull resident Tom Lusty won the main Division 1 race, with BDCC member Joe Peterson coming second in the Division 2 event.

BDCC secretary Siobhan Urquhart, from Swalcliffe, said: "We had fantastic support this year. This is the first time we've had such quality canoeists competing, including ones that have just recently been competing in world championships."

"It's been a boost and we believe it is the challenge of competing on the canal that makes this race so attractive."

BDCC finished as the third best club at the National Marathon Championships this year, as well as coming third at the Inter-Club Sprint Championships and fourth at the National Inter-Club Marathon Championships.



Canoeists gather on the Oxford Canal in Banbury for the start of the Banbury and District Canoe Club marathon

## FOOTPATH CLOSURE

### Pathway work is under way

WALKERS in Banbury will have to find an alternative route around Spiceball Park after some of its cycle routes and footpaths are to be closed for up to six weeks.

Users have been warned of temporary footpath and bridge closures for maintenance work, which started last week.

The work will affect access to the riverside foot and cycle paths and the two bridges over the River Cherwell.

Diversion signs will guide walkers and cyclists to alternative routes in the park.

Banbury Town Council's Colin Clarke said: "We plan to improve the riverside in Spiceball and make the bridges over the river safer for those who use them."

"I am sure that park users will be pleased with the refurbishments when they are completed."

"The riverside will be opened up so the public can appreciate the waterway and to make the area more attractive to wildlife."

He added that the work may take less than six weeks, depending on the weather.

The work is being overseen by the Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust and is funded by a £31,000 grant from the Environment Agency.

# Thousands are paid out due to a rise in fly-tipping

Many fear that the cost will only rise if the council close recycling centres

Hannah Somerville  
hsomerville@nqo.com

THE blight of fly-tipping is costing Oxfordshire taxpayers thousands to clean up, with just 40 people prosecuted last year.

Refrigerators and washing machines, bags of rubbish and electrical items have been seen dumped across the county in rising quantities this year.

The latest figures revealed that there were 3,300 incidents in Oxfordshire last year, compared to 3,100 the year before. The overall cost of clearing up dumped rubbish has risen from £125,000 to £146,000 in the county.

Councillor John Tanner said that Oxfordshire County Council's plans to halve the number of recycling centres would only make matters worse. The policy, which could save £350,000, is currently in consultation.

Mr Tanner said: "If recycling

centres were closed, it would likely increase fly-tipping."

He added: "It's a complete waste of taxpayers' money. I am very annoyed it is still happening; people think that they won't be found out."

"We should not be having to clear up all of this rubbish which people should be putting in the wheelie bin or taking to their local recycling centre."

Overall only 40 people were prosecuted in the county for fly-tipping over the same period. Nationally there were fewer than 2,000 prosecutions.

A number of fly-tippers were reportedly caught because of leaving bills with their name and address in with the bags.

The Country Land and Business Association, which represents landowners and business owners in rural England, has expressed concern.

Landowners themselves are liable for clearing fly-tipped waste and can face a prosecution if they do not.

South East director Robin Edwards said: "Fly-tipping is a major problem and we will be continuing to call for offenders to be dealt with more robustly."



Rubbish dumped by the side of a country lane in Oxfordshire

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We are expecting high attendance. Registration is essential so that we can manage numbers effectively.



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COUNTY COUNCIL

## INSPECTOR'S REPORT

### Childminder is outstanding, says Ofsted

A CHILD MINDER from Banbury has been given an 'outstanding' rating by Ofsted for the second time in a row.

Jane Tate, of Woodlands, Wykham Lane, Broughton, was visited by inspector Sarah Holley on September 21.

Ms Holley ranked her as 'outstanding' in all areas.

Ms Tate was said to build exceptionally strong partnerships with parents, who highly value the role she plays in their children's lives.

She was also said to fully understand the importance of forging strong links with other professionals. Ms Holley said the teaching was outstanding.

She said: "The childminder knows the children she cares for extremely well. She makes excellent use of all opportunities to observe children as they play."

"Children clearly love spending time with the childminder. They are happy and relaxed in her home."



## Free council parking

**CHERWELL:** Residents can enjoy free parking in council-owned and operated car parks in the build-up to Christmas.

From November 28 until January 10 there will be free parking every day from 3pm so people can take advantage of Christmas shopping in Bicester and Banbury.

Cherwell District Council deputy leader councillor George Reynolds said: "We're pleased to announce that the scheme will return for 2015, and this year we're starting from an earlier date so that in Banbury it will be in operation before the Christmas lights turn-on."

X-Factor winner Sam Bailey will switch on the lights on November 29 and perform some of her songs.

# Displays of fireworks set to light up evening skies

Clemence Michallon  
news@nqo.com

**FIREWORKS** will light up skies all around as families and friends gather for Bonfire Night.

Incendiary events will go off with a bang to form part of Guy Fawkes Night celebrations

fireworks display on Sunday, November 1.

The fireworks begin at 5.45pm. There will be a bar, a barbecue, a tombola and hot drinks. Entry is £3 per person or £10 for a family of four. Parking will be extremely limited.

Bloxham Primary School will hold its Fabulous Fireworks evening on Friday, November 6.

There will be a barbecue, a bar, a sweets stall and a competition to

guess the weight of the pumpkin.

Tickets will be on sale from the Friends of Bloxham Primary School and can also be bought on the night.

The festivities continue on Saturday, November 7 with the Great-worth fireworks in Hobwell Field.

There will be a bonfire, a barbecue and refreshments with the display starting at 7pm. Tickets are £6 for adults, £3 for children and pensioners and £15 for families.

The Cropredy Cricket Club will hold its bonfire and fireworks display on the same night. Entry is £4 for adults, £2 for children and £10 for families.

Cherwell District Council asks those willing to organise their own fireworks display to store them safely, respect the minimum safety distance marked on them, only purchase them from reputable dealers and warn neighbours ahead of time.

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## Supported internship scheme sees students gain work experience



Students Laura O'Brien and Ryan Edgington get started on new supported internship programmes

STUDENTS with special needs and learning disabilities are already feeling the benefit of new supported internships launched this year.

The scheme was launched this summer by Oxfordshire County Council at four colleges: Banbury & Bicester, Henley, City of Oxford and Abingdon & Witney.

At each establishment students are now taking part in an unpaid 12-month programme, which involves a work placement three days a week with one day spent at college developing employability skills.

Six students from City of Oxford College are taking part in the first year.

Among them is Ryan

Edgington, 20, who said: "I have been working at Oxford United Football Club helping with the estates team."

He added: "The course has given me lots of confidence."

Fellow student Laura O'Brien, 22, said: "I work in an office in Cowley and have been doing a range of admin jobs such as filing."

She added: "I enjoy the

course at college which teaches me how to make a good first impression."

The supported internship scheme is funded by the Department for Education as part of the budget for colleges.

Its goal is to provide life skills and foster independence in trainees with special needs.

### STORE DUE TO OPEN DOORS

**BANBURY:** Marks & Spencer, the flagship store for the new Banbury Gateway centre, is due to open its doors for the first time today.

The new 100,000 sq ft shop will feature fashion, home and food sections.

There will also be a new café.

Yesterday, seven other new stores at the new shopping complex, which included River Island, Mountain Warehouse, Poundland, McDonald's, EE, Starbucks and Carphone Warehouse, also welcomed their first customers.

These will be followed by the opening of an 80,000 sq ft Primark, Fat Face and Ed's Easy Diner later this year.

### AWARDS FOR EMPLOYEES

**OXON:** Employers are being offered a chance to recognise individual staff in the countywide Employee of the Year awards.

Run by Banbury-based recruitment firm Plus One Personnel, the scheme is supported by Heart FM and the Lord-Lieutenant of Oxfordshire, Tim Stevenson.

There are six categories: Apprentice of the Year, Team of the Year, Charity Fundraiser of the Year, Commitment to Employment Award, Employer of the Year and Employee of the Year.

Entry is free and open to firms of any size or sector.

Entries close on December 18 and winners will be announced on January 28.

Visit [plusonepersonnel.co.uk](http://plusonepersonnel.co.uk)

### HUNT FOR A JEWELLERY THIEF

**BANBURY:** Police are looking for a man in connection with a jewellery burglary.

Offenders broke into a house in Wesley Drive and stole gold jewellery including an identity bracelet, oval cufflinks, a square signet ring all engraved with names, a diamond cut tie tack, a knot dress ring, a signet ring, a child's signet ring, a dolphin charm, a cross charm and a gold Garard wrist watch.

The burglary happened between 1.30pm on September 8, and 11.30am on September 10.

Offenders smashed entry to a rear patio window, and once inside stole items from both the kitchen and master bedroom.



## Man coaxed to safety

**BANBURY:** A man was talked down from a bridge over a railway line by Thames Valley Police officers on Wednesday of last week.

A spokeswoman said officers were called at 9.20pm to the site at Waterworks Lane, due to a fear for someone's welfare.

She added: "There was a man sitting on a bridge over a railway line in Banbury.

"Officers talked to the man and eventually got him down. Trains were stopped during that time and the man has been detained under the Mental Health Act. He is now safe."

## Free way to cut bills

**OXON:** Thames Water is offering to fit free water and money-saving gadgets in Oxfordshire homes and provide help that could save a family of four as much as £180 a year on bills.

Free visits are available to the company's customers in the county.

To book, email smarter-home-visit@groundwork.org.uk with your address and contact details, or call 08006 226623.

## Call for football fans

**BANBURY:** Volunteers with a passion for football are invited to take part in a new Streets Revolution project in Banbury.

The charity, which up til now have been based in Oxford, aims to engage people from marginalised or disadvantaged communities through sport.

The first meeting of SR Banbury took place on October 15. Anyone interested in helping run football sessions is asked to call chairman Jon Regler on 07713 333359.

## Revamped pub open

**BANBURY:** One of the town's oldest pubs reopened its doors on Friday after going through renovation.

Ye Olde Reine Deer Inn, in Parsons Street, closed for 12 days while work was done to the main building.

## Air raid trail for kids

**BANBURY:** Families visiting Upton House this half term can explore the grounds in a new air raid trail.

Children will be able to hunt for the air raid shelter, complete a war-themed quiz and enjoy Second World War-style meals from the restaurant.

In the house, visitors can get involved in the Banking for Victory exhibition by knitting, typing letters and sharing memories of world wars.

The air raid trail will run until Sunday November 1, excluding today, from 11am to 4pm. Trails cost £2 each. For more information call 01295 670266.

## Firm branches out

**BANBURY:** Accountancy firm Whitley Stimpson has launched a sister company to cater for clients in the education sector.

Academy and School Improvement Services Together (Asisst) will provide advice on mock Ofsted inspections, employee management, leadership appointments, governor training, capital project management and legal support.

Whitley Stimpson's clients in the education sector include academies, multi-academy trusts and free schools.

Asisst chief executive Dr Fiona Hammans said: "In today's education sector, there is a real need for on-the-ground support to help guide schools."

## Smoking bid fails

A PLAN to reduce the number of smokers across the county has failed to meet its target by almost 50 per cent so far this year, a new report by the county council has shown.

Some 913 people were expected to quit smoking between April and June, but 477 actually did, according to the performance report of the county council's Health Improvement Board for the first quarter of the fiscal year.

# Cancer survivor to raise funds at Halloween ball

Marketing executive of 58 says his doctor's diagnosis turned life 'upside down'

**Kieran Davey**  
kieran.davey@nqo.com

AT age 58 Mike Housley's life was turned upside down when his doctor said he had cancer.

But two years on he is in remission and is trying to raise £60,000 to help others.

The Bloxham resident was diagnosed with diffuse large B cell lymphoma, a common form of non-Hodgkin lymphoma.

He is now trying to fundraise thousands of pounds to support cancer care at Oxford University Hospitals, and Action for A-T, which funds research into the rare genetic disease Ataxia Telangiectasia (A-T), which can lead to severe disabilities from an early age.

The Banbury Road resident began experiencing weight loss in 2013 and went to the doctor when he started suffering night sweats.

After being referred to the Horton Hospital in Banbury tests revealed an enlarged spleen.

The 60-year-old said: "No one can prepare you to be told you have cancer. I was lucky."

"I was knocked for six when I found out. It's something that you never expect to happen until you hear those words yourself."

"Thanks to the research over the last 20 years I could fight it and have a decent chance of survival."

"I had fantastic support from family and friends. It really makes you count your blessings and appreciate what matters in life."

Following diagnosis Mr Housley went through eight months of treatment before he was told he was in remission in April last year.

He said: "My life has changed again now I'm back at work."

"I can tell my family and friends the great news and can start planning for my 60th birthday."

"The important thing now is that we find a cure for the disease and that's only going to come if we invest money in research."

Mr Housley set up Bloxham marketing agency Cyance in 2007.

So far he has raised £22,000 for the two charities. On Saturday he will hold a Halloween Ball at Bow Peep Farm, Adderbury.

Radcliffe Hospitals Charitable Funds director of fundraising Jayne Ozanne said: "We are grateful to Mike for dedicating his 60th year to fundraising and hope people will join him at his Halloween Ball."

Visit big60.org.



Mike Housley, who is aiming to raise £60,000 for cancer charities

## Children good to glow with school walk wristbands

PUPILS at Hook Norton Primary School will be able to stretch their legs in safety using new glow-in-the-dark walking gear.

Youngsters have been provided with 240 high-visibility wristbands to wear during the darker months on the journey to school by housebuilder Taylor Wimpey.

The donation was in support of Walk to School Month, a national campaign promoting healthy lifestyles and reduce the number of vehicles on roads.

Head teacher Stella Belgrove said: "We encourage the children to walk to school to promote a healthy lifestyle and reduce traffic outside the school."

"We are very grateful for this donation, which will help raise the profile of Walk to School Month."

Taylor Wimpey has also donated £2,000 towards fitting out three new classrooms for reception-age children and £500 towards a project to create a new play area.

At present the firm is building 75 three- and four-bedroom homes off Bourne Lane in Hook Norton.

During the progress of the



Pupils with their wristbands

planning application in 2013 the development was opposed by members of Hook Norton Parish Council.

Taylor Wimpey Oxfordshire spokeswoman Nikki Gibson said: "We are committed to supporting the communities in which we build our new homes."

"We understand that family life can be busy, but walking to school is one of the easiest ways for children to increase their level of physical activity and get fit. We hope our contribution will help inspire families to swap the car for a safe walk to school instead."

## Cloudy2Clear Windows – Service With A Smile!

ADVERTISEMENT

It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

Managing Director James Miller feels that it's all about service. "Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 10 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people money, although

that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done. We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole."

Cloudy2Clear service the Oxford, Banbury & Abingdon areas and James is finding that his approach is a major factor

in his success. "The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for,

which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated."

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give James a call for a free quotation on 0800 61 21 118 and he'll be happy to help!



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## Wildlife photographer celebrates as he snaps up a highly sought-after award

A TALENTED wildlife photographer from Banbury is celebrating after winning an award in a national wildlife photography competition.

Will Yeong was awarded a commended prize in the native category in Marwell's Wildlife's Photographer of the Year competition.

His winning picture captured a puffin mid-flight and was taken on Skomer Island off the coast of Pembrokeshire.

Mr Yeong, who specialises in wildlife and landscape photography, said: "One aim I had from the start was to get an in focus puffin with the sparkly Irish sea in the background. I took hundreds of pictures before I got the photo I wanted."

"I could happily spend all day outside just to get the perfect shot, but having said that I always love to make the most of any opportunity I get to a photo like this."

He said his early inspiration for photography had come from taking pictures with his father on family holidays.

The photo will be displayed at Marwell Zoo in Winchester.



Will Yeong receiving his award from editor of Digital Photographer Magazine Amy Squibb

## Pupils take a trip to the past

CHILDREN at a Banbury school took a giant leap back in time to learn about Roman history.

Education staff from Banbury Museum visited pupils aged seven to 11 at Hardwick Primary School to show old artefacts and talk about what life would have been like during the Roman Empire.

Pupils from the Ferris school also tried to replicate some feats of Roman engineering, including building an underfloor heating system - called a hypocaust - from polystyrene blocks.

They later used their investigative skills to identify what various pieces of Roman pottery might have been.

It was part of a new series of Roman and Anglo-Saxon workshops aiming to save schools money in travelling to the museum to see the artefacts.

The workshops also hope to improve the cultural knowledge of people in Banbury and are available to schools within a 10-mile radius of the museum.

Banbury Museum education manager Suzi Wild said: "We are thrilled to launch our new outreach workshop schemes which have been designed in close consultation with our school partners."

# Vital family help 'at risk from cuts'

Emotional, financial and mental health support is under threat, say mothers

Luke Sproule  
lsroule@nqo.com

CHILDREN'S centre campaigners have warned families could lose out on emotional, financial and mental health support if proposed cuts go ahead.

Oxfordshire County Council is currently consulting on plans which could see all 44 of the centres close and be replaced with eight family and resource centres.

The authority claims this would save £2m and it is one of a number of options being considered which could save a total of £52.5m.

But campaigner Amy Herbert, a 25-year-old mum-of-three, said the service provided by children's centres extended beyond being a place for children to play.

The Banbury resident said: "I have been using them for three years."

"Before I used them I had been in and out of depression for years and they have completely transformed our lives."

"My husband has been signed off work with depression for 11 weeks and they have been the biggest support in terms of pointing us in the right direction for counselling and financial support."

"The staff have been really friendly and supportive of me and my husband."

"Trained staff have the



Parents and children who are concerned their children's centre could face closure

ability to spot warning signs. For example, although it didn't happen in my case, they can spot if a child is being withdrawn and not wanting to interact."

Full-time mum Ms Herbert said she was particularly worried about the impact on rural areas if the county council's proposals go ahead.

She said: "Rural communities have nothing if the children's centres go, so it is a big thing for rural families."

"I do not want any centres to be closed and I am very concerned for rural families."

A decision on whether or not all the centres will be closed will not be made

until early next year, after the consultation period has closed.

County council cabinet member for education Melinda Tilley said new services would continue to support families.

She said: "We understand that people have found the children's centres valuable since they began to operate over the course of the past 10 to 15 years."

"Our proposals would see the formation of a brand new service merging services for children of all ages up to 19."

"There would be significant outreach work from the centres within this service."

"We are particularly interested to hear ideas from communities for how services that the county council may no longer be able to provide could continue in future."

But mum-of-two Jill Huish, who is leading the Save Oxfordshire Children's Centres campaign, said she was worried volunteers could not provide the same level of service.

She said: "The staff are really good at linking you up to different services which can help."

"It is not just the fact that these staff are really well trained in these centres but it is that families can be given support from an early stage when staff spot the warnings early on."

"Children's centres are a one-stop shop. That is the best way to describe the services they provide."

The consultation on children's centres is open until January 10.

It can be viewed at [oxfordshire.gov.uk](http://oxfordshire.gov.uk)

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# Oxfordshire Listings

## Events

### THURSDAY

**Abingdon Young Farmers:** Manor Farm, Marcham. A vibrant organisation for young people from all walks of life with an interest in the countryside, with a range of social and sporting events, talks and visits to local places of interest. 7.45pm. £35-£40 per year.

**Art exhibition:** The Old Town Cafe & Gallery/The Artery, 21 Parsons Street, Banbury. Exhibition of a diverse range of work from Banbury and District Art Society members, from beginners to professionals. Free entry.

**Halloween fun:** Fairytale Farm, Southcombe, near Chipping Norton. Lots of Halloween activities until Saturday. Carve your own pumpkin lantern, get your face painted into a spooky character, decorate a bat biscuit or a pumpkin-shaped cookie and get creative in our colouring corner. Illuminations switched on as darkness falls. 10am-5pm. Adults £5.25 adults, children £5, family £17.95. 01608 238014.

**Rope of Words:** Vale and Downland Museum, 19 Church Street, Wantage. Inspired by a story written by her daughter Megan, illustrator Lin Kerr has portrayed the tale in a series of 14 watercolour paintings which will be on show at the museum until Saturday to coincide with the Wantage (not just) Betjeman Literary Festival. 01235 771447.

### FRIDAY

**Spooky dusk discovery walk:** Earth Trust, Little Wittenham. Do you dare go out to the woods tonight? Moonlit Halloween walk to experience the Earth Trust's woodland at night – torch and courage are essential. 5.30pm. Adults £5, children £2. Book a place at 01865 407792.

**Luke's Fund Bingo:** Village Centre, Kennington Road, Kennington. Doors open 7pm, eyes down 7.30pm. £2 entrance includes lucky number and nibbles. Bar and raffle. 01865 730353.

**Charity race night:** The Nightingale Pub, Nightingale Place, Langford Village, Bicester. In aid of the Hummingbird Cancer Support and Therapy Centre, Launton. 8pm. Race cards £5. 01869 244244.

**Half term at Cogges:** Cogges Manor Farm, Church Lane, Witney. Drop-in Halloween craft session in the barley barn. 11am-3pm. Standard admission fees apply. Children must remain accompanied by an adult at all times. 01993 772602.

### SATURDAY

**Steam day:** Didcot Railway Centre, by Didcot Parkway station. Visitors can enjoy rides in vintage coaches behind Great Western steam locomotives. Engines and carriages will be on display in the engine shed, and a science interactive centre and restored air raid shelter open. Also open on Sunday. Adults £11, children £9. 01235 817200.

**Halloween at the folly:** Faringdon Folly Tower, off Stanford Road, Faringdon. Climb the tower at night for a spooky experience as a scary character is there to greet you. 5pm. £2, 11 to 16s £1, under 11s 50p. 01367 241142.

**Half term at Cogges:** Cogges Manor Farm, Church Lane, Witney. Spooky Halloween Saturday with face painting,

pumpkin trail, build a scarecrow competition, messy biscuits in a drop-in session held around the site. 12pm-3pm. Standard admission fees apply. Children must remain accompanied by an adult at all times. 01993 772602.

**Craft, food and gift fair:** Thame Showground, Kingsey Road. There will be large craft pavilions and talented craftsmen and women will be demonstrating on the day, including glass-blowers and chainsaw carving experts. Plus Santa will be there. 10am. Adults £6.50, over 65s £6, children £2. 01283 820548.

**Autumn fair:** The Regal Centre, St Martin's Street, Wallingford. The South Oxfordshire branch of Save the Children will be holding the event to support the work of the charity in the UK and overseas. There will be about 20 stalls and it is a chance to shop early for Christmas. Teas, coffee and cakes available. 10am. £3, children Free. 01993 842983.

**WI gift fair:** Carterton WI Hall, Brize Norton Road, Carterton. Stalls selling quality and unique gifts, including WI home-baked cakes. There will also be refreshments and a raffle. 10am. Free entry. 01993 843650.

**Table-top sale:** Village Hall, Church Road Northmoor. Hot food and drinks also available. 10am. Free entry, buyers £10 per table. 01865 300534.

**Watlington Art Exhibition:** Watlington Primary School, Love Lane. There will be about 400 pieces of work on view, from professional and amateur artists. They will include limited editions, sculpture and ceramics, each depicting that artist's individual style and diversity. Saturday 10am-5pm, Sunday 11am-3pm. £1, children free. Proceeds from the event go to Watlington Primary School. 01491 612474.

**Charity car boot sale:** Carterton Recreation Ground, Alvescot Road, to the rear of Aldi store. Carterton Lions will be holding their monthly charity sale. No need to book a pitch – gates open at 8am for stall holders. £6, or large stall/trader £12. Free entry for buyers. Gate collection for a different local charity each month. 01993 772241.

**Paintings, print and sculpture:** Modern Artists Gallery, High Street, Whitechurch on Thames. Artists include Richard Scott, Alice Cescatti, Paul Wright, Matthieu Leger, Kate Kessling and Mark Hall. Free. 0118 984 5893.

**Kidlington Art Group:** Annual exhibition and sale at Kidlington Band Hut, next to St John Ambulance Hall, High Street, Kidlington. You can meet some of the artists. 9.30am. Free.

### SUNDAY

**Sustainable Witney:** Cogges Manor Farm, Church Lane, Witney. 'Refashion' is an event to promote the reduction of fabric going to landfill. The day will include a clothes swapping event called Swishing and a range of workshops to alter and mend clothes and showcase how to re-use material. 10am. Free. 01993 772602.

**Ewelme Watercress Beds:** Watercress Centre, The Street, Ewelme. Guided walk with knowledgeable guides through the upper and lower sites of the nature reserve, which has been restored by volunteers. 10.30am start. No dogs allowed, except guide dogs and sensible footwear is advised. There is no need to book. Adults £3, children free. Free car

**To get an event of any kind listed here, enter the details into our easy-to-use online database at [thisisoxfordshire.co.uk/events](http://thisisoxfordshire.co.uk/events)**

**Please add your event no later than ten days before the day of publication.**

park at the east end of village beyond the school and church. 01491 835173.

**Flea market and collectors fair:** Island Farm Donkey Sanctuary, Old Didcot Road Brightwell-cum-Sotwell. Varied stalls, good parking and refreshments. 10am. 50p. Setting up for sellers from 8am – pitches available from £10 (tables supplied) via 01491 833938 or [www.donkeyrescue.org.uk](http://www.donkeyrescue.org.uk)

### MONDAY

**Talking Oxfordshire 2015:** Town Hall Buildings, 1 Bridge Street Banbury, Banbury. Have your say on Oxfordshire County Council's budget for 2016/17. Cuts in funding from central government mean the council plans to cut hundreds of millions of pounds over the next five years. 7pm. Free. Anyone wishing to attend is urged to register at [www.eventbrite.co.uk](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk) – search for 'talking Oxfordshire'.

**Charity pub quiz:** The Oxfordshire Yeoman, 172 Wroslyn Road, Freeland. Monthly pub quiz in aid of African Children's Fund, raising funds for the Quentin Junior Academy in Tanzania. 8pm. Entry is £2.50 per person with teams of up to six people. 01993 705272.

**Charity Christmas card sale:** Vale and Downland Museum, 19 Church Street, Wantage. Start of the museum's Christmas Card sale, held in The Squires Room. It will support a variety of charities. Museum is closed on Sundays.

### WEDNESDAY

**Churchill's Secret Army:** The Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum, Park Street, Woodstock. Gilly Halcrow talks about the brave men and women in the Special Operations Executive, formed to conduct espionage, sabotage and reconnaissance in occupied Europe during the Second World War. The talk gives a fascinating insight into some of the missions that achieved amazing success and helped shorten the war. 7pm. £15. Tickets available from [sofo.org.uk/shop.php](http://sofo.org.uk/shop.php) or 01993 810211.

**Bicester and Kidlington Ramblers:** Leisurely six-mile circular walk via Hampton Poyle and Hampton Gay. Meet at St Mary's Church car park, Kidlington, ref SP498147, at 10am. There are likely to be horses in the fields. Registered assistance dogs only. Mary Whitehead 01865 460469.

## Music

### THURSDAY

**Lunchtime recital:** Methodist Church, High Street, Witney. Voices of the Angels, with Emily White (voice, violin, trombone), Annabel Molyneaux (mezzo-soprano), Peter Cowdrey (piano), Paul Molyneaux (poetry). 12:30pm. Free. 01993 702296.

**Session Americana:** Cornerstone Arts Centre, 25 Station Road, Didcot. This collective of talented musicians craft an unusual musical experience. On stage is a collapsible bar table, wired with microphones, a vintage suitcase recast as a kick drum, an old Estey field organ,

a pre-war parlor guitar, a mandocello, a fire-damaged harmonica case and an assortment of other instruments that get passed around in this freewheeling modern hootenanny. 8pm. £14, concessions £12.50. 01235 515144.

### FRIDAY

**The Machine Breakers:** The Northcourt, Abingdon United, Northcourt Road. This US folk rock band have a series of critically acclaimed albums behind them. Their music draws its influences from a variety of sources, reminiscent of Fairport Convention, Lindisfarne, Oysterband and Runrig. 7.30pm. £8 in advance, £10 on the door. 01235 856076.

### SATURDAY

**Martin Carthy:** Tiddy Hall, Shipton Road, Ascott-under-Wychwood. For more than 40 years, Carthy has been one of folk music's greatest innovators. 8pm. £13 in advance, £15 on the door. 01993 831427 or [wegottickets.com/wychwoodfolkclub](http://wegottickets.com/wychwoodfolkclub)

**Music night:** Skittle Alley return to the Royal British Legion, 25 Spring Road, Abingdon, with music for all tastes. Raffle and cheap drinks. Non-members welcome. 8.30pm. Free. 01235 554418.

**The Bull Inn:** The Wirebirds perform at the Halloween party at The Bull Inn, Bicester Road, Launton. 9pm. Free entry. 01869 248158.

### MONDAY

**The Brew:** The Bullingdon, 162 Cowley Road, Oxford. This award-winning Grimsby trio has grown into one of Europe's most potent rock acts, combining the musicianship of classic rock with youthful energy and a contemporary outlook. Support from Hell's Gazelles. 8pm. Advance tickets £10 from 01472 349222.

## Dance

### THURSDAY

**Learn to ballroom dance:** Henry Box School sports hall, Church Green, Witney. Learn waltz, quickstep, foxtrot and tango. 6.30pm. For more information about joining a class, call 07789 974866 or email [p.anslow.123@btinternet.com](mailto:p.anslow.123@btinternet.com) or visit [dancewithpatanslow.co.uk](http://dancewithpatanslow.co.uk)

**Witney Folk Dance Group:** Madley Park Hall, Northfield Farm Lane, Witney. Learn English country dance. Beginners welcome. 8pm. £3 includes coffee and raffle. 01993 705961.

### FRIDAY

**Country and Western dance:** Carterton Social Centre, Brownes Lane, Carterton. Dancing to Ridgeway Country (five-piece band). 8.30pm. £6. 01993 850682.

### SATURDAY

**Mike Nelson:** Woodstock Social Club, 44 Oxford Street, Woodstock. Live music and dance. 8.30pm. Free, donations welcome. 01993 812094.

### MONDAY

**Scottish country dancing:** The Northcourt Centre, Northcourt Road, Abingdon. Beginners welcome, You can start any week. 8pm. £5 to join, then £2 each session. 01235 528154.

**Morris winter practice:** Recreation Hall, Main Street, Long Hanborough. Masons Apron Northwest welcomes new and experienced dancers to join its winter practices. Musicians are welcome to join its band. 8.15pm. 01993 200717.

### TUESDAY

**Tea dance:** Woodstock Social Club, 44 Oxford Street, Woodstock. Enjoy a dance and chat with a friendly crowd. 2pm. £2 includes tea and cake. 01993 811473.

## Comedy

### FRIDAY

**Dan Clark:** Cornerstone Arts Centre, 25 Station Road, Didcot. Best known as Don Danbury from BBC3's cult hit sitcom *How Not to Live Your Life* and Johnny Two Hats from *The Mighty Boosh*, Clark is back on the road with his critically acclaimed stand-up show – about love, death and crushing loneliness. 8pm. Adults £12.50, concessions £11. 01235 515144.

### SUNDAY

**Comedy Club For Kids:** Cornerstone Arts Centre, 25 Station Road, Didcot. Some of the best comedians from the UK circuit do what they do best – without the rude bits. 2pm. £8, concessions £6. 01235 515144.

## Theatre

### THURSDAY

**Annie:** Bladon Methodist Church, Park Street, Bladon. The junior church, for youngsters aged four to 20, is staging this popular musical. Set in 1930s New York, brave young Annie lives a life of misery at an orphanage but her luck change when she is chosen to spend Christmas at the home of a billionaire. However, spiteful Miss Hannigan has other ideas. The production includes the unforgettable songs *It's the Hard Knock Life* and *Tomorrow*. Performances run until Saturday. 7.30pm. £12, children £8. Box office 01869 337881.

**Copacabana:** Amey Theatre, Abingdon School, Abingdon. Following the success of *The Sound of Music*, Abingdon Operatic Society returns with this musical, set in a 1940s New York nightclub and featuring the songs of Barry Manilow. Until Saturday. 7.30pm plus 2.30pm matinée on Saturday. £9.50-£16. 01235 834383 and [www.abingdonoperatic.co.uk](http://www.abingdonoperatic.co.uk)

### FRIDAY

**Ghost Pirates of the Black Pearl:** The Beacon, Wantage. A swashbuckling story including exploding cannons, gaudy costumes, and seafaring action. 3pm. £8 per person or £30 family of four. Tickets from 01235 763456.

### SATURDAY

**Dickens Abridged:** Cornerstone Arts Centre, 25 Station Road, Didcot. From Adam Long, co-creator of *The Complete Works of Shakespeare* (abridged) comes this fast-paced musical comedy. A talented cast of four brings hundreds of the great author's best-loved characters to life in 70 minutes of madcap Dickensian mayhem. 7.30pm. £16, concessions £14.50. 01235 515144.





Officials and standard bearers at the official launch of Oxfordshire's Poppy Appeal

# Raising funds to aid our veterans

Residents are urged to dig deep and donate to break fundraising records

**Callum Keown**  
ckeown@nqo.com

THE COUNTY'S Poppy Appeal was officially launched this week at Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford, with fresh calls for a record-breaking amount of donations.

The Military Wives Choirs of RAF Benson and RAF Brize Norton performed wartime songs and veterans spoke of the importance of the Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal.

Last year a record-breaking £560,370 was raised in the county with money going to ex-servicemen and their families who need support.

RBL county chairman Lynda Atkins said: "The launch has gone fantastically well – it's great to see everyone here supporting the appeal.

"It's also really important to hear from veterans and the beneficiaries of our help.

"We would encourage people to donate and buy a poppy but also anyone is welcome to do a bit more and maybe help us in collecting our funds."



Heather Hindmarsh at the launch

Collection tins were handed out across the county at the weekend to a network of volunteers who will be selling them.

The RBL has set a new record-breaking target of £575,000 this year following the success of 2014.

Former chairman Jim Lewendon, who served with the Royal Artillery for three years and was a gunner in Second World War, said: "There was a really big boost last year with it being 100 years since the First World War and I hope that carries on this year.

"It becomes more and more important each year to remember those who gave their lives and also to support

those currently fighting in conflicts around the world."

A beneficiary of the appeal, Heather Hindmarsh, from Bicester, spoke at the launch and encouraged people to donate.

The 46-year-old fought in Northern Ireland as a private with the Ulster Defence Regiment and then the Royal Irish Regiment.

Her husband Del was a Lance Corporal with Royal Pioneer Corps there for 20 years until 2005.

Mr Hindmarsh developed Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and due to a paperwork error he was registered as being AWOL and the family – with two children – stopped being paid for four months.

Their two children were eventually put into foster care.

Mrs Hindmarsh said: "The Royal British Legion, with money from the poppy appeal, really helped us out gave us support and paid our rents and bills."

The Cathedral will host readings of poems in 18 different languages to mark this year's Remembrance Day.

On Saturday, November 7, between 3pm and 4pm, poems from 18 of the countries involved in the Second World War will be read out by native speakers.

## UPDATING YOUR DETAILS

TEAMS from Cherwell District Council will spend the next four weeks knocking on doors in North Oxfordshire to ask people to confirm their details on the electoral register. Officer for Cherwell, Sue Smith, said: "Even if people choose not to vote, it is a legal requirement for them to keep their details up to date and failure to do so can lead to a £1,000 fine."

## STAYING SAFE ONLINE

A CYBER security roadshow, aimed at protecting children, will visit Rye Hill Golf Club, Milcombe, on November 12. The show, which is being hosted by education specialist Internet service provider Schools Broadband, aims to provide teachers with knowledge and understanding of Internet security in Oxfordshire schools.

## NEWSQUEST POSTS PROFIT

NEWSQUEST Media Group, which owns the *Banbury Cake*, posted a £57.9m profit after tax in the year to December 28, 2014. Although turnover declined 3.2 per cent to £279.3m, Newsquest's adjusted earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation increased 2.7 per cent to £69.1m.

## RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

A SCHEME which aims to help people deal with crimes against them by meeting those who committed them has been launched in Oxfordshire.

The restorative justice service for victims of crime in the county and elsewhere in Thames Valley was officially launched at the House of Lords last week.

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## BACK TO BEALES

4 High Street, Chipping Norton

## £86k to bring wi-fi Internet to 28 libraries

WI-FI Internet will be installed in every library in the county by next spring.

Oxfordshire County Council, which runs 43 libraries, has won an £86,000 grant from Arts Council England to install the service in the 28 libraries which do not have it already.

Among libraries to benefit next spring will be Kidlington, Bicester, Kennington, Wantage and Grove.

The grant is one of 68 which

Arts Council England has made to local authorities, bringing the total the organisation has contributed to wi-fi installation to £2.7m.

The wi-fi fund supports the Arts Council's goal of developing library services to make sure they are fit for purpose now and in the future.

County council cabinet member for cultural and community services Lorraine Lindsay-Gale said: "This

funding which will be provided by Arts Council England will enable us to have wi-fi in all those 43 libraries which adds to the good news.

"The future for Oxfordshire's libraries is bright."

County council spokesman Paul Smith said the money was a one-off grant and was therefore not a substitute for money which might have to be cut from the library service's budget in coming years.



## Council appeal for new team of winter wardens

VOLUNTEERS to help their neighbours during snowy or frosty conditions are being sought in Banbury.

The town council is looking for people to join the Neighbourhood Snow Warden Scheme which sees volunteers organise the gritting of footpaths and pavements where they live.

They will be responsible for looking after roads and footpaths not prioritised by county council gritters, and helping people to move around town when snow or ice could restrict travel to or from work, schools and shops.

About 80 wardens came forward last year but were rarely called into action because of the mild weather.

Banbury Town Council leader Kieron Mallon said: "Snow wardens are important and valued members of the community."

"They keep our roads, pavements and footpaths safer for everyone throughout the winter, particularly elderly and vulnerable residents who cannot help themselves."

"The scheme is a great way of communities working together during bad weather."

Volunteers will be provided with equipment and training by the town council.

The initiative has been set up in partnership with Oxfordshire County Council and Cherwell District Council.

Mr Mallon said: "The scheme is tried and tested and works well in many other places."

For more information call the town council on 01295 250340.

# Don't give yourself a fire fright this Hallowe'en...

Parents urged not to burn real candles following high profile accident last year

Sam McGregor

PEOPLE are being urged not to burn real candles this Hallowe'en and instead swap them for torches.

It comes after the presenter Claudia Winkleman highlighted just how flammable children's Hallowe'en costumes are.

Last year, her daughter Matilda, who was eight at the time, suffered burns to much of her body after her witch costume caught fire from a candle in a pumpkin.

Now Oxfordshire trading standards and mum-of-two Drew Kamphuis, have joined the *Strictly* presenter's campaign to raise awareness of the dangerous combination of flammable costumes and naked flames.

Watch manager Ricky Thomas said he hoped it would "create an awareness of the potential risks involved".

Mr Thomas said: "The problem is you may not notice it is on fire straight away or until a child feels some sort of discomfort."

Former firefighter and mother-of-two Drew Kamphuis, who runs First For Safety, a business offering first aid courses for parents, said: "After what happened to Claudia Winkleman's daughter it has made me think and it has made me change."

"Last year it wasn't something I thought of, we had candles in pumpkins."

"This year because I'm aware of it I'm trying to encourage people in the village to use torches which is the best way to prevent anything happening. No matter how careful you are accidents will happen."

She has put messages on social media groups, asking people not to swap candles for torches in their pumpkins.

Mrs Kamphuis said she had also changed the type of costume she dresses her children in.

Richard Webb, trading standards and community safety manager, said: "Our advice is to encourage the public not to use candles generally and to be aware that they pose particular risks with costumes for children."

"You have got a combination of large flowing costumes which are flammable combined with candles."

"There are battery-operated lights available which have the appearance of candles without the associated danger."



Isabel Coombs and Bella Kamphuis from Finstock with battery candles

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- ✓ Arrecife is Lanzarote's capital
- ✓ The Canary Isle of Tenerife boasts the 'whole world in one day'
- ✓ Christopher Columbus was a regular visitor to Las Palmas
- ✓ Spend New Year's Eve in the floral paradise of Funchal, capital of Madeira
- ✓ Call at historic Lisbon
- ✓ Traditional British & International cuisine, stylish entertainment, guest lecturers & on-board leisure facilities
- ✓ 14 nights' full board accommodation on board *Magellan*

\*Applies to bookings made by 31 October. Offer subject to availability & may be withdrawn at any time. Price shown is the new reduced fare.

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- ✓ Traditional British & International cuisine, stylish entertainment, guest lecturers & on-board leisure facilities
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# Plotline cracks show the decline of premium Bond

DANIEL Craig's licence to kill as Ian Fleming's suave secret agent comes full circle in *Spectre*.

It's a robust yet emotionally underpowered tale of espionage and dark family secrets that ends with a series of whimpers rather than with the almighty bang we expect of James Bond.

If *Skyfall* popped a cork on a muscular new era for 007, becoming the highest grossing film of all time in the UK, then *Spectre* is the morning after.

The champagne has gone flat, leftover snacks are starting to go stale and someone has fallen asleep face down on the sofa.

That could be any of the four screenwriters, who doze off after the tour-de-force opening sequence at a Mexican day of the dead parade, and allow plot holes and lapses in logic to pock their narrative.

How can Bond travel around the globe unseen when he has nanobots in his bloodstream so M16 and the enemy can track his movements?

Would a brilliant operative like Q really whip out his laptop on public transport and conduct vital forensic analysis without a second thought for security protocols?

Death sequences are anti-climaxes and the central love story, which is supposed to kindle doubts in Bond's mind about his loyalty to Queen and country, barely smoulders, let alone melts celluloid.

The newly-appointed M, Gareth Mallory (Ralph Fiennes), battles with political

forces, including Max Denbigh (Andrew Scott), to protect the integrity of M16 following a merger with M15.

A cryptic message reveals ghosts from Bond's past and 007 (Craig) follows a chain of evidence that leads to Dr Madeleine Swann (Lea Seydoux), daughter of fugitive Mr White (Jesper Christensen), who was last seen in *Quantum Of Solace*.

Aided by technical wizard Q (Ben Whishaw) and plucky agent Eve Moneypenny (Naomie Harris), Bond criss-crosses the globe in his Aston Martin DB10 and infiltrates a menacing organisation named SPECTRE, fronted by the enigmatic Franz Oberhauser (Christoph Waltz).

Rome, Tokyo, Altaussee in Austria, Tangier and London provide a picturesque backdrop to Bond's escapades as he meets his physical match in hulking henchman Mr Hinx (Dave Bautista).

*Spectre* was always going to struggle to meet expectations – we do have very high ones for Bond – but even allowing for that, it's disappointing how far short this 24th big screen mission falls.

At 148 minutes, the film overstays its welcome and a number of key scenes overrun, particularly the introduction of Waltz's shadowy arch-villain.

Even the action set pieces, apart from the glorious opening salvo, lack power, sacrificing slam-bang thrills for ponderous exposition.

Craig struts and swaggers



LEFT: Daniel Craig, returns as James Bond, in *SPECTRE*, the latest film from the 007 Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer studios

through the melee, bedding beauties who seemingly self-combust with a single glance. He also endures another wince-inducing torture sequence that fully warrants the film's 12A certificate.

Dame Judi Dench's absence is palpable but Fiennes and Whishaw are gifted expanded roles and come into their own.

But, sadly, Harris is really just surplus to requirements.

When one of the characters rebukes Bond's recklessness and tells the agent he has gone too far, nothing could be further from the truth. *Spectre* just doesn't go far enough.

## Cake Bookworm

*Rendezvous At The Russian Tea Rooms: The Spy Hunter, The Fashion Designer And The Man From Moscow* by Paul Willetts, hardback by Constable, £18.99 (ebook £10.99)

TAKE a deep breath before you open this book, as from the first page it plunges into the fevered atmosphere of 1939 and the eve of London's Blitz. This gripping tale is based on true events which made headlines around the world. Packed with spies, secret assignments, surveillance and kidnapping, it is an impressive portrait that lays bare the sinister truth behind spy networks of the Second World War. The central characters are a Russian fashion designer with Nazi connections, an American womaniser, who worked at the US Embassy but was spying for the Russians, and an eccentric but brilliant M15 spy hunter, who enjoyed taking his pet bear cub for walks around the streets of London. Rather than detracting

from the main story, the long cast list at the beginning, photographs of the main characters in the centre and copious notes at the end serve as a useful reminder that these complicated and at times, bizarre, events actually happened. This is Paul Willetts' fourth non-fiction book – his previous works include *Members Only*, a study of strip-show boss Paul Raymond, which inspired 2013 film *The Look Of Love* starring Steve Coogan and Anna Friel. He began researching *Rendezvous At The Russian Tea Rooms* more than 20 years ago and spent more than five years trawling through hundreds of personal and public documents including letters, photographs, M15 reports, a summary of a phone tap from the National Archives and photographs.

*Rogue Lawyer* by John Grisham, hardback by Hodder & Stoughton, £20 (ebook £12.99)  
SEBASTIAN Rudd is the sort of law-

yer that any self-respecting criminal would want to defend them. He is the street lawyer the police hate as equally as the criminals, and very possibly the type of legal advocate author John Grisham wishes he could be. Just to make things interesting, Grisham has got his latest hero grappling with a no-holds-barred custody case with his lawyer ex-wife at the same time as he dodges death threats and car bombs from dissatisfied clients. From the wrongly accused and falsely prosecuted, Rudd bounces from one courtroom battle to the next at breakneck speed, and with little regard for the size or standing of the adversary. Even when he can't get a cage fighter off a murder charge, there is just enough in Rudd's favour to leave the reader pulling in his direction. Grisham has made his name with gritty legal characters and his latest is sure to have him raking in big fees once again.

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Ricky Johnson scored four goals in two games for Banbury

# Johnson stars in United away day

## Ricky's hat-trick fires Puritans past Totton

RICKY Johnson bagged a hat-trick as Banbury United cruised to a 4-0 win at AFC Totton.

The Puritans climbed to eighth in Division 1 South & West of the Evo-Stik Southern League as a result.

They were in front after just seven minutes, when Johnson latched onto Darius Browne's pass to slot home.

And they made it 2-0 on 18 minutes, when Howards beat Steve Mowthorpe from ten yards.

Johnson then headed Zac McEachran's free-

**AFC Totton 0, Banbury United 4**

kick against the bar as the scoreline remained unchanged before the break.

The visitors effectively put the game to bed on 52 minutes, when Johnson powerfully headed Howards's cross into the top corner.

Browne then hit the bar, while Louis Joyce went close.

Johnson completed his hat-trick with three minutes left, rising highest to nod home McEachran's corner.

It rounded off a good few days for Johnson and United, after they became the first team to take points off North Leigh at Eynsham Park by claiming a 1-1 draw.

Kieran Sanders put the hosts ahead nine minutes before the break with an unstoppable shot from 20 yards.

But Banbury were much improved in the second half and it merited a point.

The equaliser arrived 16 minutes from time, when Johnson was in the right place to score from close range at a corner.

## LATEST TABLE

EVO-STIK SOUTHERN LEAGUE										
Division 1 South & West (Up to October 24)										
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts			
Cinderford Tn	13	8	4	1	26	10	28			
North Leigh	12	9	1	2	26	10	28			
Supermarine	13	8	1	4	23	15	25			
Shortwood Utd	12	8	0	4	22	14	24			
Taunton Tn	12	7	2	3	22	13	23			
Tiverton Tn	13	6	5	2	16	12	23			
Winchester City	11	6	3	2	33	15	21			
<b>Banbury Utd</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>21</b>			
Yate Tn	14	6	3	5	21	15	21			
Larkhall Ath	11	5	4	2	23	17	19			
Evesham Utd	14	5	4	5	17	15	19			
Bishops Cleeve	13	5	4	4	21	25	19			
Mangotsfield	12	4	4	4	22	26	16			
Slimbridge	13	4	4	5	14	19	16			
Didcot Tn	10	4	3	3	22	16	15			
Marlow	13	4	2	7	21	28	14			
Burnham	13	3	3	7	14	21	12			
Wantage Tn	14	3	2	9	25	24	11			
AFC Totton	13	3	2	8	19	28	11			
Bridgwater Tn	12	3	1	8	12	28	10			
Wimborne Tn	12	2	2	8	26	34	8			
Bashley	13	0	0	13	5	56	0			

STARS with Claire Petulengro

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ARIES

Mar 21-Apr 19

You will be intolerant of lazy people as you want to get the job done this week and you don't have time for false promises either. Time is on your side though Aries, so don't rush. Take time to stop and enjoy the successful view you've created for yourself. Family offer ways to have more 'you' time. Ring now for more on this dramatic week.

0906 585 4360

LIBRA

Sep 23-Oct 22

Friends could prove quite hard going this week as you battle to work out what their mixed words and messages really mean. It may be a good idea to take some sort of a break from the situations which are making you feel anxious or upset. By next week you'll have a clear idea and feeling of what you need to do. Ring now and I'll tell you a secret.

0906 585 4366

TAURUS

Apr 20-May 20

You won't be able to rely on others to get things done, but you'll have to do the job yourself if it's important. You see Taurus, some dramatic action from the stars is making us all more intent on taking care of ourselves rather than others. A good week however to deal with delicate financial issues. Ring now to talk about what happened last weekend.

0906 585 4361

GEMINI

May 21-Jun 20

There are some really positive aspects to your career this week and if you were thinking of making any sort of a change to your work then this is the time to do it. A new attraction comes at a price, so check out their story and their status before you advance please Gemini. Ring now to hear how old skills can lead to you making new money.

0906 585 4362

CANCER

Jun 21-Jul 22

If you can be brave enough to look at the cold hard facts this week, then you are going to find some very constructive answers. Someone from your past wants back in your life but they are unlikely to have changed as dramatically as they think they have. Remember this when making decisions. Ring now to hear how long distance travel is very well started.

0906 585 4363

LEO

Jul 23-Aug 22

This is a week that could prove to be very good to you. The stars highlight home, property and family. Matters which have so far refused to become fluid, should now be faced with ease and confidence. You get something you never dreamed could be yours. Call now to hear which sign you should take on this colourful journey.

0906 585 4364

VIRGO

Aug 23-Sep 22

You're no longer playing games in the relationships in your life and the stars will reward you for this with a more enjoyable and predictable week ahead. You'll no longer worry about close one's decisions, but you'll embrace their ideas and plans. A good time to make commitments you've previously been scared of. Ring now for more on this exciting time.

0906 585 4370

SCORPIO

Oct 23-Nov 21

Your emotions are heightened and you may find yourself facing more extreme feelings about the events which affect your life. The good news is that close ones are on hand to let you know that you are loved and that your future is secure. You've come a long way since last year Scorpio and I'm proud of you. Ring now so we can talk things through.

0906 585 4367

SAGITTARIUS

Nov 22-Dec 21

You're feeling a little more temperamental and you may agree to take on things you will regret. Slow down and sleep on any important decisions. It will ensure that you really do finish what you start in November. Gossip from far away gives you reason to want to call or visit a close one. Ring now to hear how you hold the key to an important reunion.

0906 585 4368

CAPRICORN

Dec 22-Jan 19

You're feeling unsure of a close one and I'm not surprised with the events which the last ten days have seen come your way. From Thursday, you get a firm idea of what is coming next and you also start to see support from a very unexpected source. A new union is set to shock and surprise you. Call now to hear how career aspects bring great excitement.

0906 585 4369

AQUARIUS

Jan 20-Feb 18

Why are you listening to other's opinions when you are the one who must live your life? Try to take a step back and look at the bigger picture. There is nothing you want that you cannot have with a little structure and determination. You could actually do with aiming higher than you'd originally planned. Call now to hear who your allies are in work.

0906 585 4370

PISCES

Feb 19-Mar 20

Plans you make are set for success and you start to feel more at ease with dramatic events which took place. Unusual offers which come your way this weekend make you see certain people in a more wary light. Don't rule out going back into the educational system later in the year. Call now so we can talk about your mixed emotions.

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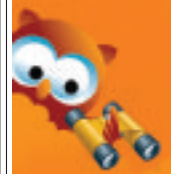
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The main gift marquee and various rows of exhibitor marquees play host to a wide range of gifts, tweed clothing, ladies fashions and jewellery. With Christmas just around the corner it's a great early shopping opportunity.

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## 9

### RECRUITMENT

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9 RECRUITMENT

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- **Assistant/Deputy Manager**  
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- **Sous Chef**  
- Salary package around £25,000 p.a.
- **Chefs de Partie**  
- Salary up to £20,000 p.a.
- **Commis Chefs**  
- Salary up to £16,500 p.a.
- **Full and part time Kitchen Porters**  
- (£6.70 per hour, flexible hours)
- **Full time Bar/Cellar Supervisor**  
- Salary around £16,500 p.a.
- **Full and part time Bar/Waiting Crew**  
- (£6.70 per hour, flexible hours)
- **Part time Cleaners**  
- (£8.50 per hour, mornings, including some weekends)

If this sounds like your cup of tea, please send your CV with a covering letter telling us about you and what makes you tick to [jan@brunningandprice.co.uk](mailto:jan@brunningandprice.co.uk)

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10 MOTORS

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2005 55	VOLKSWAGEN GOLF PLUS TDI. DIESEL. Metallic Blue. 5 Door. Local car. Very nice condition. Electric windows and mirrors. Remote central locking. Radio/CD. PAS. Aircon. Alloys. Etc. Nice example of this popular diesel Golf. Sold with a new MOT a full service and a new cambelt kit. HPI Clear.....	<b>SOLD</b> £3,495
2006 56	FORD FOCUS 1.8 Ghia. 5 door. Silver. Local car. Aircon. Alloys. PAS. Heated front windscreen. Radio/CD. Electric windows and door mirrors. Remote central locking. Etc. Sold with a new MOT a full service and a new cambelt kit. HPI clear.....	£2,995
2007 57	FORD FOCUS 1.6 STYLE TDCI DIESEL. Metallic pale Blue. 5 Doors. Local car. 2 owners. Excellent economy from this very popular diesel car. Lovely condition and drives very well. Alloys. Aircon. Radio/CD. Remote central locking. Electric windows and mirrors. Sold with a full service a new MOT and a new cambelt kit. HPI clear.....	£2,995
2005 05	FORD C-MAX 1.8 Black. 5 door. Previously supplied by ourselves. Local car. Lovely throughout. Aircon. PAS. Remote central locking. Radio/CD. Electric windows. Airbags. Sold with a new MOT and a full service. HPI clear.....	£2,550
2005 05	NISSAN MICRA 1.2S. Metallic blue. 5 Door hatchback. 2 owners. Local car. PAS. Electric windows. Remote central locking. CD/Player. Etc. Very nice condition. Drives very well. Sold with a new MOT a full service and a new cambelt. HPI clear.....	£2,350
2002 51	FORD MONDEO ZETEC 2.0 TDCI. 5 door hatchback. Metallic Blue. Local car in very nice condition throughout. PAS. Alloys. Aircon. Remote central locking. Electric windows and door mirrors. Radio/CD. Very nice example of this popular large diesel car. Sold with a new MOT a full service and a new cambelt kit. HPI Clear.....	£1,995
2005 05	VAUXHALL CORSA 1.0 LIFE. Silver. 3 Door. Local car. Very low recorded mileage of approximately 43400. Ideal 1st car, or runaround. Lovely condition. Sold with a new MOT, a full service and a new cambelt. HPI clear.....	£1,795
2003 03	VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.8 PETROL ELEGANCE. 7 SEATER. Silver. MOT until March 2016.....	£1,395
2001 51	NISSAN MICRA 1.0 VIBE. 5 doors. Metallic Blue. PAS. Radio/CD. Local car. Very tidy throughout. Sold with a new MOT a full service and a new cambelt. HPI Clear.....	£1,050

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\* Source: Continental Research 2008; 41% respondents stated they used local media as a source of information when looking to buy a car from a private seller. Local media = newspaper websites and supplements.

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**abs**  
anti-locking  
braking system

**a/c**  
air conditioning

**4wd**  
four wheel drive

**c/l**  
central locking

**e/mirrors**  
electric mirrors

**e/sunroof**  
electric sunroof

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## VW's action plan

- **VOLKSWAGEN** has announced its action plan to deal with the scandal surrounding its diesel engines, the first step being contacting owners of cars affected. VW has pointed out these cars are safe to drive and roadworthy, and the full plan will come into play soon. Owners will be kept informed of which brands are included in the action plan and VW will set up national websites to pass on information. VW says a "service procedure" is required for five million of its cars within the group, which includes Audi, SEAT, Skoda and VW. Among models to be worked on are the sixth-generation Golf, Tiguan and seventh-generation Passat.
- **EVANS** Halshaw Citroen, in Banbury, has been offering customers in the area free tyre health checks through October to raise awareness of Tyre Safety Month. The offer follows a recent report on 450,000 vehicles tested by Evans Halshaw last year, it has been found that a staggering one in three drivers had been driving with an illegal tyre, with 78 per cent of the vehicles tested requiring at least one new tyre to be fitted.

# CakeMotoring

banburycake.co.uk/cars

## Sleek with subtle improvements...

### Auto facts

**Model:** Honda CR-V 1.6 i-DTEC EX  
**Price:** £34,120  
**Insurance group:** 25E  
**Fuel consumption (Combined):** 55.4mpg  
**Top speed:** 122mph  
**Length:** 460.5cm/181.3in  
**Width:** 182cm/71.6in  
**Luggage capacity:** 20.8 cu ft  
**Fuel tank capacity:** 12.7 gallons/58 litres  
**CO2 emissions:** 139g/km  
**Warranty:** Three years/90,000 miles

**David Duffy**  
 david.duffy@nqo.com

THERE are plenty of compact off-roaders on the market and a decent choice of full-size jungle crushers, but many buyers are looking for something in between.

That might explain the allure of the Honda CR-V, which is one of the most popular compact sports utility vehicles sold worldwide.

Honda clearly felt the CR-V was not in need of any drastic changes, so the emphasis was firmly placed on re-engineering some steady improvements to an already successful model and some gentle styling tweaks, with sleek, redesigned headlamps flowing into the new grille, along with a new bumper and skid plate.

The fourth-generation of the Swindon-built car comes with a new diesel engine and swaps the five-speed automatic gearbox for one with nine speeds. With a wider spread of gears, the very low first gear ratio ensures responsive performance, while a high top-gear ratio results in reduced fuel consumption and noise level at cruising speeds.

Fitted to the test model, with four-wheel drive, the new high-



The 2015 CR-V has sleek, redesigned headlamps and a new bumper

er-powered 160-horsepower 1.6-litre i-DTEC four-cylinder diesel engine delivers the holy grail combination of outstanding performance and low CO2 emissions.

Add to that changes to the suspension and sound-proofing and the solidly-constructed car delivers a quieter, more refined yet dynamic drive.

Technology is a key element in every Honda car and the CR-V bulges with it, led by a new, predictive cruise control. Capable of reacting to other vehicles "cutting-in" to its lane, the system uses a camera and a radar to

sense their position. It can predict the likelihood of vehicles in neighbouring lanes cutting-in.

Other systems range from lane keep assist to laser-operated city braking. Forward collision warning detects the risk of a collision and the cross-traffic monitor system uses radar sensors to warn of approaching vehicles when reversing.

The CR-V is as spacious and practical as ever, with split rear seats that fold flat with the pull of a handle. It also remains the top compact SUV for boot capacity, able to hold two mountain bikes or four sets of golf clubs.

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## Fuelling debate on electric

### Is it time to unplug new car subsidy?

WHETHER you're a fan of electric vehicles, they are now part and parcel of the motoring landscape and more manufacturers are adding them to their range.

The government has extended the Plug-In Car Grant until at least February 2016.

The grant was introduced to offer a £5,000 incentive for drivers buying electric. It applies to any vehicle that can charge its battery by hooking it up to a socket at home or at charger points.

The government intended to offset the higher cost of EVs compared to their petrol- and diesel-powered cousins. When the grant was launched in 2011,

electric cars were still in their infancy.

Four years later, the pace of development has been astonishing and we now have a diverse range of cars that qualify for the grant, including the BMW i8 supercar, Renault's chic Zoe supermini and the purpose-built Tesla Model S EV. Many electric cars are good cars, but is now the time to end the subsidies and let them stand on their merits?

The British Vehicle Rental and Leasing Association's Gerry Keaney thinks the grant should remain: "Demand for ultra-low emission vehicles is growing rapidly, but we would urge the

government to continue supporting this nascent market by extending the Plug-in Car Grant beyond next February, and providing additional in-life incentives for early adopters."

The grant subsidy comes out of the public purse and benefits a very small section of drivers, many of whom would be prepared to choose an electric car without the government grant. Given the fuel savings they offer, much of the extra cost of buying one could be recouped over the duration of ownership. The other key argument for axing the grant is to encourage firms to lower the price closer to those of standard models.

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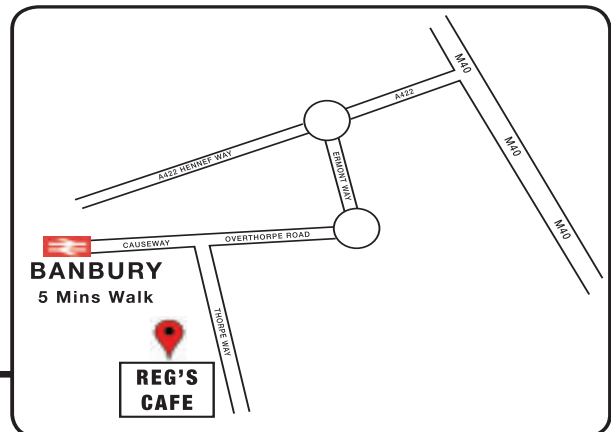


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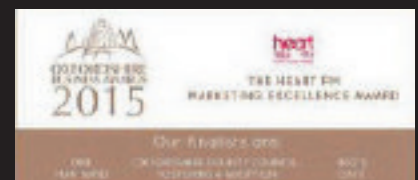
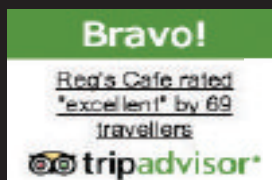
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